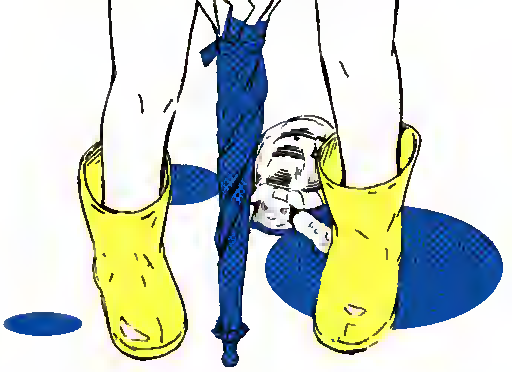

by tana kanoka

CH 7

SUMIKKO NO SORA-SAN

credits

raw provider	rawmanga-scan2
translator	lucia rose
editor	lucia rose
proofreader	lucia rose
typesetter	lucia rose
quality check	lucia rose

from the scanlators

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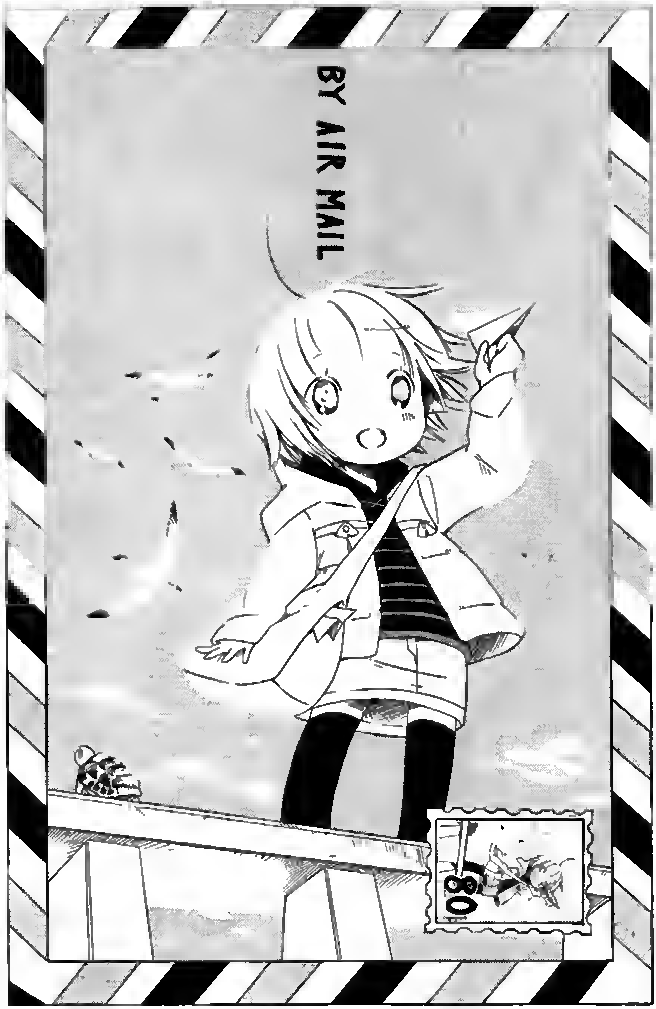
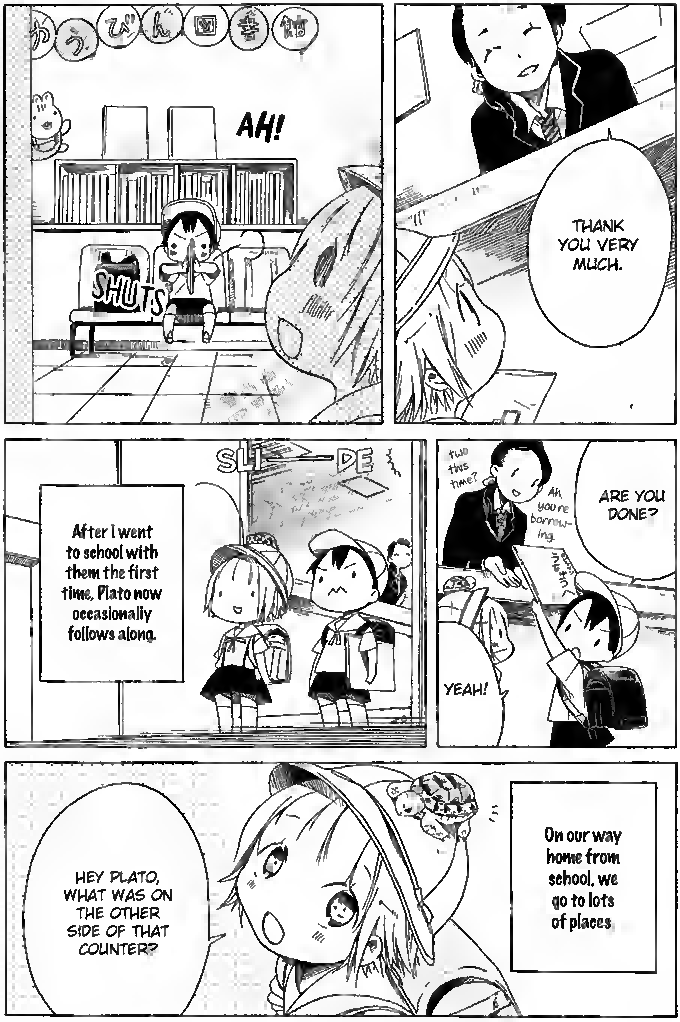
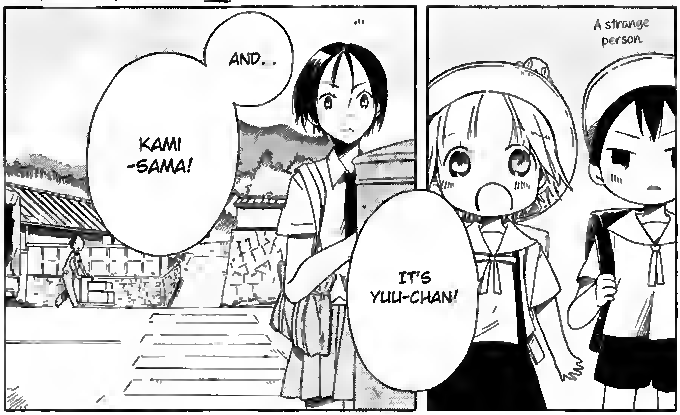


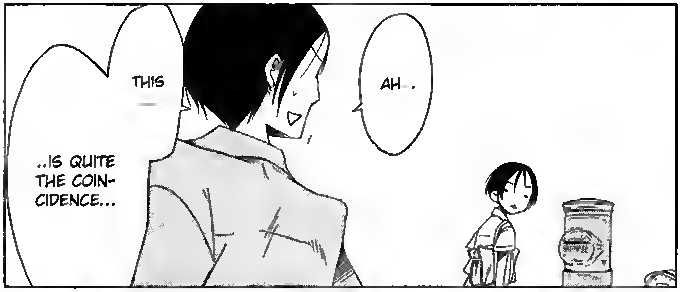
Chapter 7: Future

Hello!
It's a calm afternoon in Greece.
The green is becoming more and more dense.
PLEASE GIVE ME 200 YEN WORTH OF STAMPS!
OF COURSE THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE
HERE YOU GO, SORA -SAN
YES, JUST A MOMENT
Greece has completely accepted Plato as a child of its own now


AH!
SHUTS
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SLI DE
After I went to school with them the first time, Plato now occasionally follows along.
ARE YOU DONE?
Ah, you're borrowing.
YEAH!
On our way home from school, we go to lots of places.
HEY PLATO, WHAT WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT COUNTER?

Sora-san thought that maybe there was a tunnel leading to a faraway place at the other side of the counter!
.....
SORA-SAN IS TOO SHORT, SO SORA-SAN COULDN'T SEE
?
Other side...
of the counter..?
JUST NOW, WASN'T PLATO AT JUST THE RIGHT HEIGHT TO SEE OVER THE COUNTER?
SORA-SAN THOUGHT THAT MAYBE YOU SAW THE SECRET TO SENDING LETTERS SO FAR AWAY!
Height
Please get there safely Please get there safely
AH!
SLI
DES

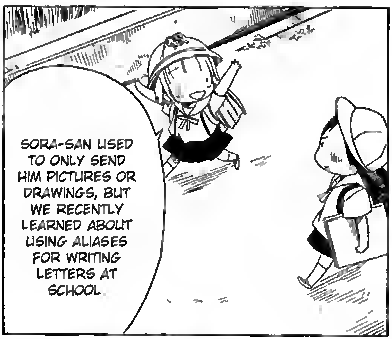

AND..
KAMI -SAMA!
IT'S YUU-CHAN!
A strange person


THIS
AH..
..IS QUITE THE COIN-CIDENCE...

SORA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THE POST OFFICE?
SORA-SAN IS BUYING STAMPS!
IGNORES
ピキ

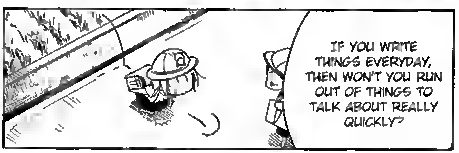
CAN'T YOU SEND LETTERS BY AIRMAIL FOR ONLY 80 YEN?
YEAH! SORA-SAN BOUGHT 200 YEN'S WORTH!
LETTERS ...
Eek!
AIRMAIL?
SORA-SAN, YOU WROTE A LETTER?
YEAH, TO MY DAD!

EVERYDAY, SORA-SAN WRITES ABOUT WHATEVER COMES TO MIND THEN AT THE END OF THE WEEK, SORA-SAN SENDS IT.
THEN WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO JUST CALL HIM?


SORA-SAN USED TO ONLY SEND HIM PICTURES OR DRAWINGS, BUT WE RECENTLY LEARNED ABOUT USING ALIASES FOR WRITING LETTERS AT SCHOOL.

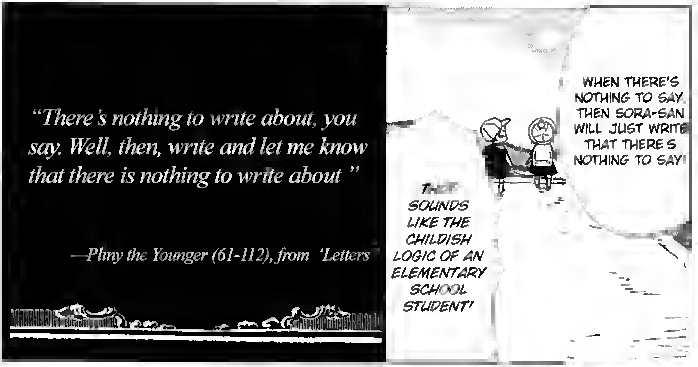
I WAS WONDERING WHY I'D NEVER SEEN HER FATHER BEFORE
It must be hard
SO HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO GREECE, HUH?
She's the commissioner for a TV station.
HER MOTHER LIVES IN JAPAN, BUT SHE FLIES AROUND THE COUNTRY FOR WORK A LOT SHE'S RARELY HOME.

THE TIMING IS NEVER RIGHT. WHEN SORA-SAN CALLS, DAD IS ALWAYS WORKING.
Sensei's father lives in Greece as well, but he lives in Athens.
That's why, to this day, Plato has never met him.
SO, WRITING HIM LETTERS IS MUCH MORE CONVENIENT.


IF YOU WRITE THINGS EVERYDAY, THEN WON'T YOU RUN OUT OF THINGS TO TALK ABOUT REALLY QUICKLY?

BECAUSE OF THAT,
SORA-SAN'S PROBABLY VERY LONELY.

YEAH,
BUT IT'S OKAY!

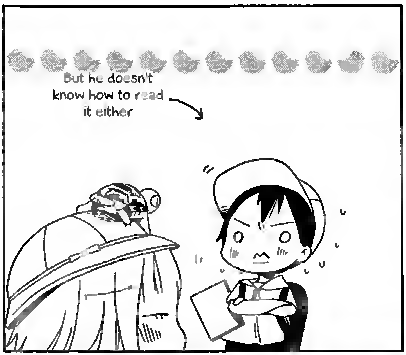

"There's nothing to write about, you say. Well, then, write and let me know that there is nothing to write about"
—Pliny the Younger (61-112), from 'Letters'
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE CHILDISH LOGIC OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT!
WHEN THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY, THEN SORA-SAN WILL JUST WRITE THAT THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY!

SO YOU'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO WRITE ABOUT AT LEAST.
BUT WE HAVE A FIELD TRIP THIS WEEK.
Is it bad?
THIS IS THE DESTINATION OF THIS WEEK'S FIELD TRIP!
SENSEI, WE CAN'T READ YET
Ah, right
DAZED~
OH! YOU'RE ALL SO HAPPY THAT YOU'RE SPACING OUT, ARE YOU?!
THIS SAYS,
OCEAN.

AHHHHHHH!
Kuidenyama Tozando
合羽
Auhane
T1
T14

合羽
Auhane

THIS...
DON'T JUST RUN HERE...
STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL!
...ISN'T READ AS "OCEAN"?
SORA-SAN THOUGHT IT DID BECAUSE IT HAS TWO CHARACTERS
WHAT'S AT THE END OF THIS PATH, THEN?
WHAT DO THOSE WORDS SAY?
DO YOU KNOW, SEI-CHAN?


But he doesn't know how to read it either

JUST BECAUSE IT HAS TWO CHARACTERS, YOU READ IT AS "OCEAN". THAT'S TOO HASTY!

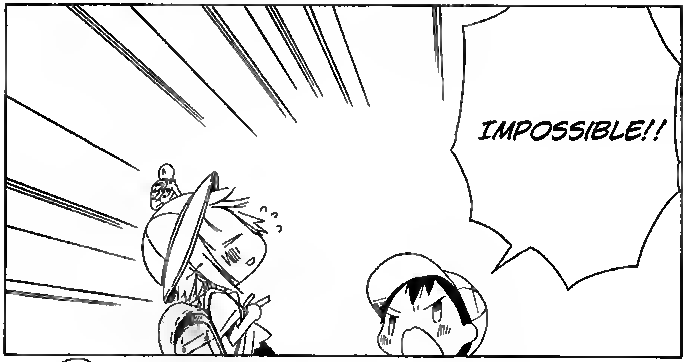
THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER WORDS...
...THAT USE TWO HIRAGANA CHARACTERS!
Sei-chan must be thinking this
U
-
mi
(first character)
(second character)

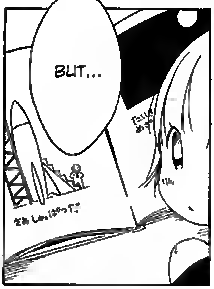
Plato thinks...
that thing just now looks like something I've seen before.
...THEN,
OR IT COULD BE "MOUNTAIN"? (yama)
THEN... IS IT "ROCK"? (iwa)
CHIBA?
BOAT? (fune)
DOG? (inu)
MONKEY? (saru)
Kanji... sure is interesting.
It seems like a single word can have lots of different meanings.
PHEASANT? (kiji)
ISLAND OF OGRES...? (onigashima)

*Note: Sei-chan is dressed as Momotarou, a boy born from a peach who goes on a journey to defeat the ogres on Onigashima (the island of ogres) with the help of a dog, monkey, and pheasant.

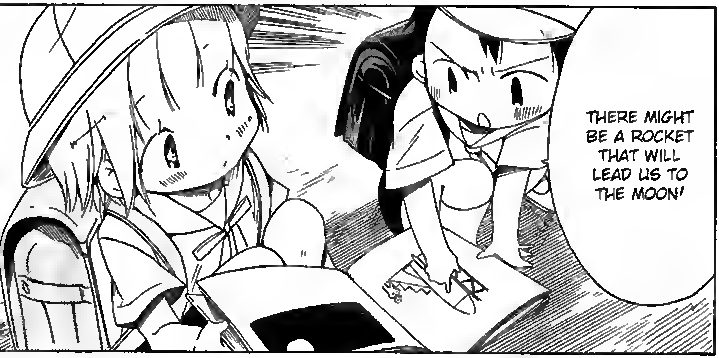
MAYBE IT'S...
"MOON"?
(tsuki)

MOON...!!
Excited...!!


IMPOSSIBLE!!

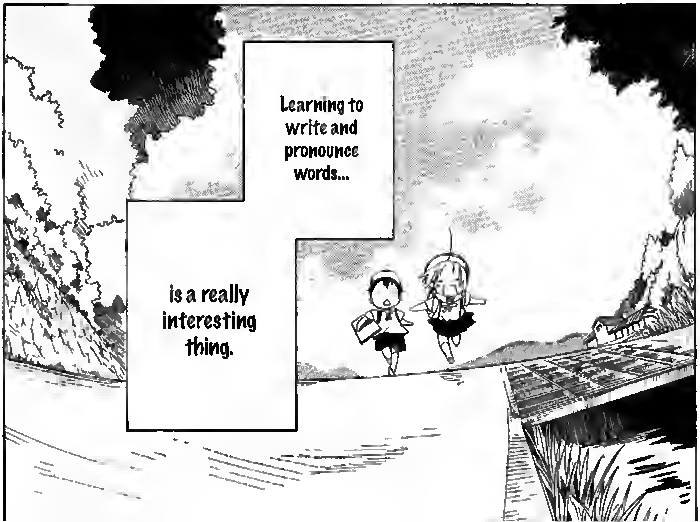

BUT...

That's what it says here
WE CAN'T GO TO THE MOON WITHOUT A ROCKET


THERE MIGHT BE A ROCKET THAT WILL LEAD US TO THE MOON!

Let's go and take a look!
It's like we've been handed a secret key.
Kudamyama
T1
T4
Aukone

Excited.!

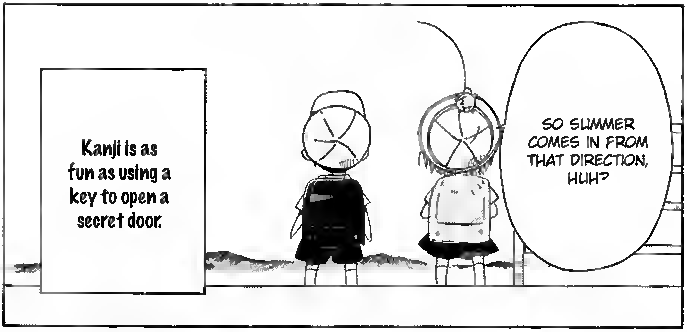

Learning to write and pronounce words...
is a really interesting thing.

As long as the words are printed on the page, we are able to read and understand its meaning.
It's like opening a special door...
...and discovering the world inside it.

I SEE I GET IT NOW.
THE WORDS ON THAT SIGN MEAN .
"SUMMER".
(natsu)
合羽
Auhane

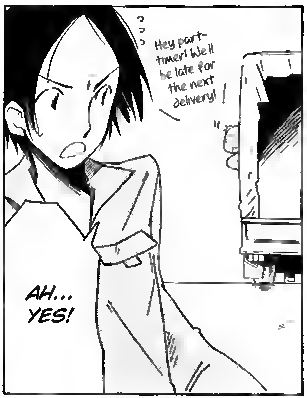
SUMMER...

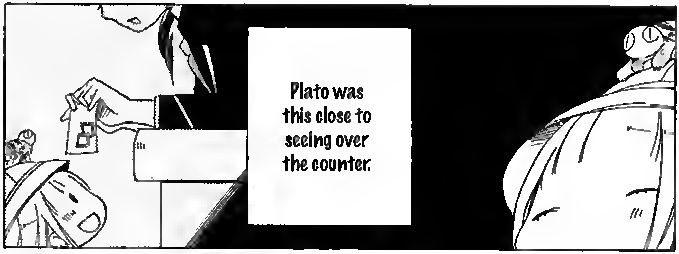
SUMMER!

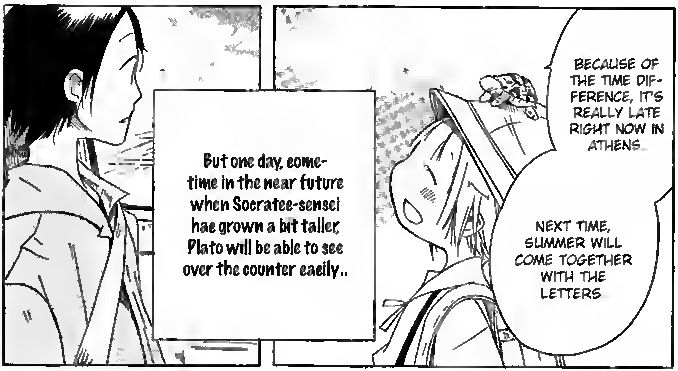

Kanji is as fun as using a key to open a secret door.
SO SUMMER COMES IN FROM THAT DIRECTION, HUH?

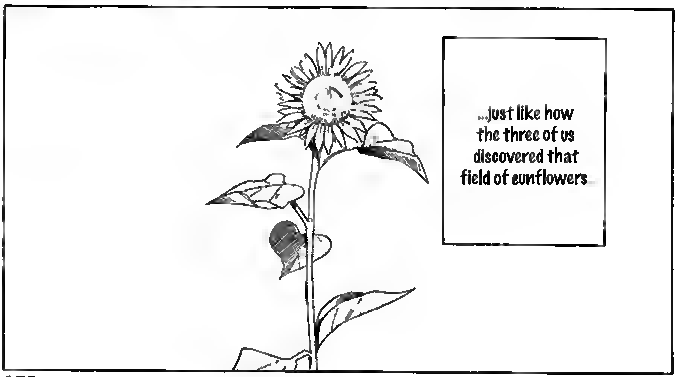
That's right. This kind of fun is just like the counter at the post office.

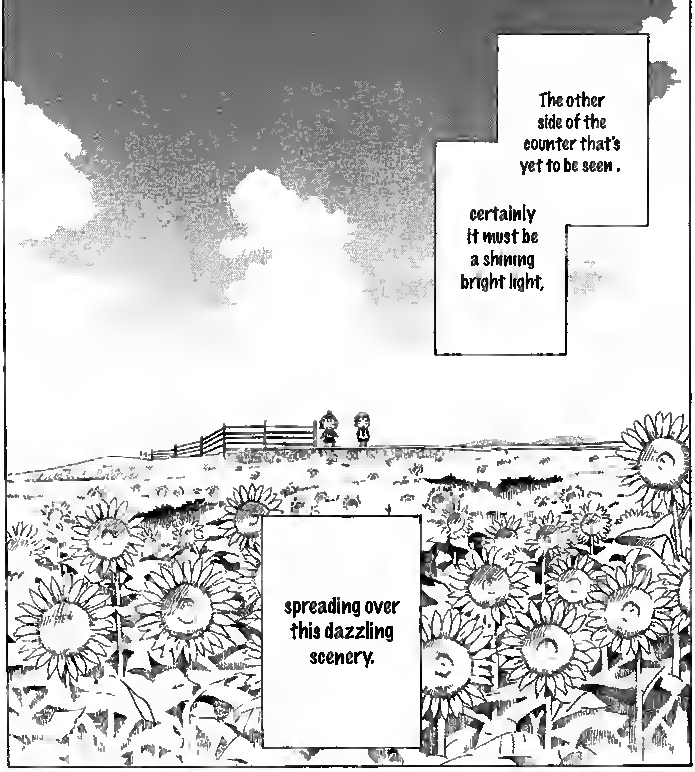
Actually, back then...


Hey part-timer! We'll be late for the next delivery!
AH... YES!


Plato was this close to seeing over the counter.


But one day, sometime in the near future when Socratee-sensei has grown a bit taller, Plato will be able to see over the counter easily..
BECAUSE OF THE TIME DIFFERENCE, IT'S REALLY LATE RIGHT NOW IN ATHENS.
NEXT TIME, SUMMER WILL COME TOGETHER WITH THE LETTERS.


...just like how the three of us discovered that field of sunflowers.


The other side of the counter that's yet to be seen.
certainly it must be a shining bright light,
spreading over this dazzling scenery.

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

—Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822), from "Ode to the West Wind"

To be continued

For all the love I've
received so far,
thank you so much.

Tana kanoka

2011.06

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